

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 02163 241522Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----096378 250401Z /13

R 241500Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8203
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2163

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY
SUBJECT: NIMETZ VISIT: PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECTS

REF: STATE 215077

1. NIMETZ VISIT, ONCE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, CAN BE EXPECTED AROUSE INTENSE INTEREST ALL QUARTERS PLUS STRONG PRESSURE BY LOCAL MEDIA FOR INFORMATION ON DETAILS OF VISIT AND FOR PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND PRESS CONFERENCE DURING VISIT. EMBASSY ASSUMES DEPARTMENT/NIMETZ PREFER KEEP PUBLIC ASPECTS OF VISIT AT A MINIMUM AND RECOMMENDS FOLLOWING FOR DEPARTMENT CONSIDERATION AND COMMENT.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISIT: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS, IF GOC CONCURS, DEPARTMENT AND GOC RELEASE ANNOUNCEMENT SIMULTANEOUSLY ALONG LINES REFTEL. RECOMMEND AFTERNOON AUGUST 31 (CYPRUS TIME) FOR THAT EVENING'S NEWSCASTS AND SEPTEMBER 1 PRESS (ALTERNATIVELY AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 1 FOR EVENING NEWSCASTS AND SEPTEMBER 2 PRESS. WILL CABLE AGREED TEXT. IF DEPARTMENT FORCED ANNOUNCE PRIOR TO AGREED DATE, GOC WOULD RELEASE AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE. REQUEST DEPARTMENT AD-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 NICOSI 02163 241522Z

WISE BY IMMEDIATE MESSAGE IF FORCED RELEASE EARLY.

3. LOCAL MEDIA WILL WANT BRIEF BIODATA, WHICH ICA WILL SUPPLY SEPARATELY BASED ON BIOGRAPHIC REGISTER UNLESS DEPARTMENT SUPPLY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

4. PRE-VISIT PRESS QUERIES: FOLLOWING PUBLIC ANNOUNCE-

MENT, EMBASSY/ICA WILL RESPOND TO PRESS QUERIES ALONG
LINE REFTEL UNLESS ADDITIONAL OR REVISED GUIDANCE
RECEIVED.

5. AIRPORT ARRIVAL: ASSUME PREFERENCE AGAINST ARRIVAL
STATEMENT AND AIRPORT PRESS MEETING AND WILL ENLIST
COOPERATION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE TO MINIMIZE MEDIA
PRESSURE. IF PRESSURE TOO GREAT, MAY RECOMMEND BRIEF
STATEMENT ALONG LINES REFTEL, NO QUESTIONS. WILL ASSESS
SITUATION AFTER PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AND ADVISE.

6. PRESS CONFERENCE: PRESSURE CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE
GREAT IN BOTH COMMUNITIES FOR PRESS CONFERENCE. PRIOR
TO ARRIVAL, EMBASSY/ICA PLAN RESPOND TO SUCH QUERIES
THAT NO PRESS CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED AS VISIT IS PURELY
EXPOLRATORY. IF, AFTER ARRIVAL, COUNSELOR NIMETZ DE-
TERMINES THAT PRESS CONFERENCE IS DESIRABLE, ICA CAN
EASILY ARRANGE AT AMERICAN CENTER. (FYI: IN THIS
EVENTUALITY, TURKISH CYPRIOT JOURNALISTS CAN BE INVITED
BUT MIGHT NOT BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND, AS WAS CASE DURING
LAST CLIFFORD VISIT.)

7. DEPARTURE STATEMENT: AS WITH ARRIVAL STATEMENT,
WOULD ATTEMPT AVOID. IF PRESSURE TOO GREAT--A LIKELY
EVENTUALITY--WOULD RECOMMEND BRIEF STATEMENT, NO QUESTIONS.
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PAGE 03 NICOSI 02163 241522Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC RELATIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NICOSI02163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780347-1089
Format: TEL
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780828/aaaaaxel.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d609a45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 215077
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1633820
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIMETZ VISIT: PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECTS
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, (NIMETZ, MATHREW)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d609a45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014